

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An RNA fusion molecule comprising:

(a) a target RNA sequence; and

(b) at least one insulator sequence, wherein ~~the at least one each said~~ insulator sequence comprises a polynucleotide stretches consisting of identical nucleotides, and flanked by identical restriction sites flanking said polynucleotide; and

(c) at least two different RNA tags, located at the 5' and/or 3' ends of the target RNA sequence, wherein at least one RNA tag interacts with a ligand in a reversible fashion, and

wherein the at least one insulator sequence separates the target RNA sequence and the RNA tags, and functions to ensure proper folding of the RNA tags and to discourage interaction between the RNA tags and the target RNA sequence.

11. (Original) The RNA fusion molecule of claim 10, wherein at least one RNA tag is repeated.

12. (Previously presented) The RNA fusion molecule of claim 10, wherein the RNA tags are selected from the group consisting of a streptavidin binding sequence (S1), a MS2 coat protein binding sequence, a streptomycin binding sequence (Streptotag), a sephadex binding sequence (D8), a N protein binding sequence (nut), a REV binding sequence, a TAT-binding sequence and a R17 coat protein binding sequence.

13. (Original) The RNA fusion molecule of claim 12, wherein the RNA tags comprise at least one streptavidin binding sequence and at least one MS2 coat protein binding sequence.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) An isolated DNA construct encoding the RNA fusion molecule of claim 10, 11, 12, or 13.

16. (Original) A vector comprising the isolated DNA construct of claim 15.

17. (Original) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 16.

18–19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A kit for detecting an RNA-protein complex comprising the RNA fusion molecule of claim 10, 11, 12, or 13.

21. (Original) A kit for detecting an RNA-protein complex comprising the isolated DNA construct of claim 15.

22. (Original) A kit for detecting an RNA-protein complex comprising the vector of claim 16.

23. (Previously presented) The RNA fusion molecule of claim 11, wherein the RNA tags are selected from the group consisting of a streptavidin binding sequence (S1), a MS2 coat protein binding sequence, a streptomycin binding sequence (Streptotag), a sephadex binding sequence (D8), a N protein binding sequence (nut), a REV binding sequence, a TAT-binding sequence and a R17 coat protein binding sequence.

24. (New) The RNA fusion molecule of claim 10, wherein said polynucleotide is a sequence of 4–10 identical nucleotides.